



KATLE



the Tsar, a
ose of his
e Russians
ritory in ne
From this t
rchants m

28 97



KATLEAN'S ROCK AND CASTLE, SITKA, ALASKA

ALEXANDER BARANOF

AND THE RUSSIAN COLONIES OF AMERICA

BY ARTHUR INKERSLEY



ON DECEMBER 8, 1741, in a wretched little hut on the island off the coast of Kamchatka, which still bears his name, the intrepid explorer, Vitus Bering, died. Though a Dane by birth, he had been for many years in the service of the Tsar, and it was on his voyages and those of his able lieutenant, Chirikof, that the Russians mainly based their claim to territory in northwestern America.

From this time forth Russian traders and merchants made frequent expeditions to

America in quest of valuable furs, but they behaved so brutally that even now, at the distance of a century and a half, the memory of their cruelties has not been blotted from the minds of the natives. Very various fortunes attended the trading and exploring expeditions of those days; some vessels brought back large quantities of splendid furs, while the crews of others suffered terrible hardships and realized nothing in return.

After Kadiak and the islands of the Aleutian group had been visited, the imperial government thought it time to take steps

92805

PROVINCIAL LIBRARY,
VICTORIA, B. C.



PRINCE BARANOFF

for the more accurate mapping out of the regions discovered by the Siberian traders. Accordingly several naval officers were detailed, on double pay and with increased rank, to accompany the traders, take notes of the resources and productions the country, and make astronomical observations. But the demon of ill-luck seemed to pursue these specially chosen officers, for though they made gallant efforts to extend their knowledge, and incurred serious dangers, they added very little to the information already acquired by the traders.

At this period most of the trading and exploration was done by companies organized for these purposes. The expeditions extended over three, four, five, or more years. On their return the total results were divided into two parts; the projectors of the expedition took one, and the other was divided into shares, of which each sailor and participator received one or two. Many of these exploring parties met with disaster at sea, but these were almost wholly due to utter ignorance of the simplest principles of navigation on the part of the adventurers, who were traders, hunters, and trappers, but not sailors.

When the game on the Aleutian islands and the adjoining peninsula began to become scarce, it was decided to try to make fresh

discoveries on the mainland. The attempts were not successful, the natives offering a brave resistance and repulsing the Russians with considerable loss. In 1784 a company of Siberian merchants organized an expedition on a larger scale than any that had hitherto left the shores of Siberia. It consisted of three ships and numbered nearly two hundred men. One of the vessels was called *The Three Saints*, and was commanded by Grigor Ivanovich Shelikof, with his crew, wintered on Bering island, and then passed on to Copper and other islands. A somewhat long stay was made at Uklashka, where they took on fresh water supplies, and several Aleutian hunters. Thence they sailed to the island now called Kadiak, and anchored in *Three Saints* harbor. Here they were received with hostility by the natives, but, nothing daunted, they began to build houses and to erect fortifications for a permanent settlement. The winter was spent at Karluk, where salmon were very plentiful, and where at the present time several canneries are situated.

Shelikof now became very anxious to secure a monopoly of the Russian discoveries and settlements in North America, and to obtain for his company the exclusive privilege of trading in the new colonies. To further his plans, he went back to Siberia, leaving at many a command of the colonies a Siberian merchant named Samoilof, to whom he gave instructions which give us a high idea of his wisdom and clear-sightedness. Shelikof directed his whole attention to extend the sphere of Russian influence to the eastward and southward, to keep out foreign traders, to establish stations further and further along the coast of the American continent, and to set up markets, and colonies of Russian occupation as far south as California. Samoilof was also instructed to decimate natives to Siberia to study the language, customs, and life, and to collect information in that way on returning to their tribes they might aid in civilizing their countrymen; to collect two hundred furs, minerals, and shells, gather articles of native manufacture, make surveys, buy land, build block-houses, and establish schools. In Siberia

Shelikof journeyed on to Irkutsk, the capital of Eastern Siberia, where he placed his report before the Governor-General, for transmission to Saint Petersburg, a long account of his discoveries, accompanied by maps and plans. He asked recognition of his work. The Governor-General took the matter up well, but dis-

and. The
ful, the nat
nd repulsin
oss. In 178
nts organiz
than any t
s of Siberia
and number
ne of the vess
, and was co
h Shelikof, w
ering island,
nd other islan
made at U
on fresh wat
eutian hunt
island now call
e Saints harl
hostility by
d, they began
ortifications
The winter v
imon were v
he present c
ed.

anxious to sec
discoveries a

na, and to obt
sive privilege
es. To furth
beria, leaving
at many abuses
existed in the
relations be
ween the various
independent
trading com
ave instructi
ones and the
natives, and
that it would
be his wisdom
ast to abolish
the traders' rule,
and place
directed his
lie whole American
traffic in the
hands of
of Russian in
single strong
company. So
Shelikof and
thward, to k
partner, Golikof,
were invited
to Saint
abliish stati
etersburg to
be presented
to the Em
press, the
coast of
ho manifested
great interest
in their
pro-
set up mar
ets, and conferred
gold medals
and swords
south as C
honor upon
them. On
September
28th, 1788,
a decree was
issued, giving
the com
e language,
any exclusive
privileges of
trading and
the Russians,
unting in the
regions discovered
and con
bates they
migolled by
them. Besides
all this a
subsidy
men; to coll
two hundred
thousand
rubles was
advanced
ther articles
om the public
treasury, to
be repaid
in
surveys, bu
yenty annual
instalments
without interest.

In Siberia Shelikof looked about him for a
kutsk, the can who would carry out his plans, and set
e he placed his heart upon Alexander Baranof, a native
or transmissi
f Kargapol in eastern Russia. Baranof was
account of
orn in 1747, and from his native place went
naps and pla
Moscow, where he was a clerk in retail
his work. Thops; in 1771 he set up in business for him-
matter up well, but dissatisfied with his prospects, he

migrated to Siberia in 1780, and took the
management of a glass factory in Irkutsk.
Later, he engaged in trading on the Anadir
river and in Kamchatka, and did a fair bus-
iness. Being fond of his independence, he
at first refused to enter the service of the
Shelikof company. So Delarof, a Greek, was
appointed in charge of the colony at Kadiak.
He behaved with great kindness and justice;
but, though visitors of all nationalities praised
him highly, he was much too lenient and hon-
est to suit his unscrupulous directors.

In 1789 Baranof lost two of his caravans,
and was rendered bankrupt. Shelikof ap-
proached him again, and this time Baranof
accepted his overtures, and entered the ser-
vice of the company in 1790. He was ex-
cellently fitted for the work he had to do;
shrewd, politic, full of courage and energy,



A RUSSIAN BLOCK HOUSE

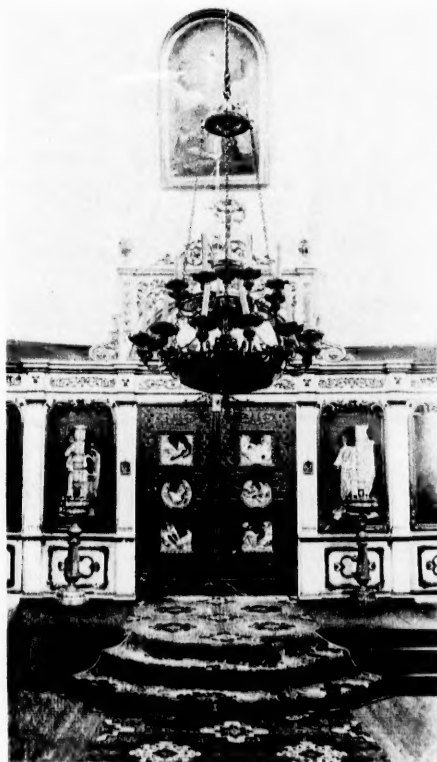


Photo by Partridge

INTERIOR OF RUSSIAN CHURCH, SITKA, ALASKA

careful to avoid disputes, and yet not burdened with inconvenient scruples. That he was fond of strong liquor, loose in his relationships with women, and capable of lying whenever occasion seemed to require, did not detract from, but rather increased his usefulness in the post he was called to occupy.

Baranof sailed to the scene of his future labors in The Three Saints, but he was not destined to reach Kadiak that year. The ship was wrecked on Unalashka and went to pieces. Baranof at once showed his readi-

post being at the bay of Three Saints, Kadiak. But his domain did not extend beyond Kadiak and a few of the adjacent islands, as several private trading companies were yet in operation on the Aleutian islands and Prince William sound. After Baranof had been in power for some little time he determined to extend the company's sphere of influence, and to seize the Alexander archipelago.

With these ends in view, Baranof removed the chief settlement of the company from Three Saints to Saint Paul harbor, beca-



OLD RUSSIAN BLOCK HOUSE, SITKA

ness of resource by distributing his fifty-two men over the island in search of seals and edible roots, and his energy by helping them to build underground huts in which to pass the long and cold winter. Though food often ran short, and many hardships had to be endured, Baranof learned much about the habits and customs of the natives that afterwards proved useful to him.

In the spring of 1791 the Russians constructed three bidarkas, or skin boats, in which they safely reached Kadiak, making many valuable explorations on the way. Delarof was relieved, and Baranof assumed command of all the forts, stations, and settlements, of the Shelikof-Golikof company, the principal

more timber for ship-building could be obtained near the latter place. He made an alliance with the chief of a tribe of natives and while on an exploring expedition met with an English ship, the captain of which gave him a good deal of useful information. He effected a landing upon Nuchek island but was attacked by a large body of natives wearing wooden armor and carrying wooden shields strong enough to stop a bullet, and using arrows tipped with flint or copper. The natives fought stubbornly and the fortune of the day was turning against the Russians when some Aleuts in their service escaped to a Russian vessel anchored not far from the battle-field, and brought aid

Baranof. At
d driven off
d-a-half-pow
Baranof wrot
llows:—

As for myself,
as torn by a sp
Being arou
dress, but rus
d to see that
er the danger
the fearless d
ere new recrui

Baranof ha
a Prince Wi
he natives in
ere he recei
rs to begin
id of an Er
com Siberia
is men wer
hips, he set
here being
uilding on
rected quar
he shores o
ound, and a
f felling tr
im for call

ree Saints,
not extend m
of the adjac
ading compa
Aleutian isla
After Bara
e little time
company's spi
Alexander ar

Baranof remo
e company fi
harbor, beca



SITKA, ALASKA

Photo by Taber

Baranof. At last the natives were defeated and driven off, partly by the aid of a one-and-a-half-pounder gun of the Russians. Baranof wrote of this battle to Shelikof as follows:—

As for myself, God protected me; though my shirt is torn by a spear and the arrows fell thickly around me. Being aroused from a deep sleep, I had no time to dress, but rushed out as I was to encourage the men to see that our only cannon was moved to wherever the danger was greatest. Great praise is due the fearless demeanor of my men, many of whom are new recruits.

Baranof had intended to spend the winter in Prince William sound, but the hostility of the natives induced him to return to Kadiak. There he received instructions from his directors to begin shipbuilding at once, with the aid of an English ship-builder sent to him from Siberia. But as winter quarters for his men were more pressingly needed than ships, he set to work to construct them first. There being no suitable timber for shipbuilding on Kadiak or Afognak islands, he erected quarters for his ship-carpenters on the shores of Sunday bay in Prince William sound, and all through the winter the work of felling trees went on. But tar and oakum for calking were entirely lacking, and

the necessary iron had to be collected from the wrecks of vessels. Some iron ore was found, and Baranof made many attempts to smelt iron, but he was unsuccessful. Besides all this, food was scarce; and had Baranof not been possessed of indomitable energy and perseverance, the work could never have been accomplished. At last he triumphed over all difficulties, and the first ship built in northwestern America was launched. She was named the Phoenix and must have been an odd-looking craft. She was seventy-three feet long on the water-line, and seventy-nine feet over all, with a depth of thirteen and one half feet and a beam of twenty-three feet. She was built of spruce timber, and her capacity was about one hundred tons. The sails were made of scraps of canvas raked together from the company's warehouses in Kamchatka and the colonies, and presented a motley appearance. For paint a mixture of tar and whale-oil was used, and as there was not enough even of this to cover the whole vessel, the rest was coated with spruce gum and oil. With great difficulty she made her way to Kadiak, where her appearance was hailed with joy. Being refitted, she made a quick passage to Okhotsk in Siberia, where she was supplied



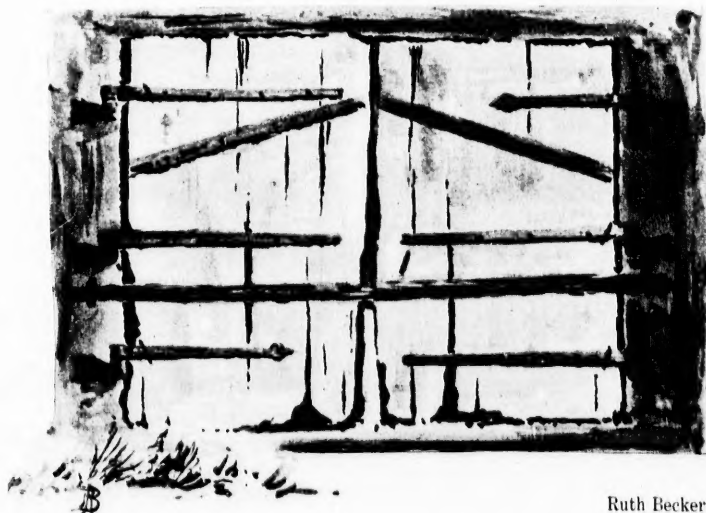
LANDING AT FORT ROSS, CALIFORNIA

Helen J. Smith

with cabins, deckhouses, and new sails and rigging. The Shelikof company was very proud of their own vessel, built in their own yard, and henceforth she made regular trips between Okhotsk and the American colonies. In 1795 Baranof built and launched two more vessels, the Dolphin and the Olga.

It has been said that the Shelikof company was not only trading company doing

business in Russian America. About years before Baranof took charge of at Kadiak the Lebedef company had sent a vessel with thirty-eight men thither, but agents of the Shelikof company, not wishing to have their hunting-grounds encroached upon, recommended them to go on to Chukchi Inlet, where they established a permanent settlement, named Saint George, consisting



Ruth Becker

SALLY PORT AT FORT ROSS, CALIFORNIA

log bu
Sheli
ned Sai
inlet.
of the
two g
rehouse
ver. In
p, Saint
nmande
ct a st
Saint N
At these

ings pre
it hunti
ttle mor
ork was
eloped by
ative chi
istoms
and wou
on, in th
neir own
cheerfu
edef me
ame a n
ountry,
ithout
neir own
ative se

log buildings surrounded by a stockade. Shelikof company already had a fort, and Saint Alexander, at the entrance of the inlet. It was square, with bastions at each of the corners, and had a gate protected by two guns. Inside were dwellings and warehouses, on one of which was a lookout tower. In 1791 the Lebedef company's ship, Saint George, reached the inlet. The commander beached his ship and began to erect a stockaded fort, to which the name Saint Nicholas was given. At these fortified posts the Russians took

At last the news of their outrages and quarrels reached Baranof, who, though angry, was restrained from taking immediate measures by the fact that Shelikof was a partner in the Lebedef company, and Baranof did not wish to interfere without communicating with his chief. So he contented himself for the present with warning the men at Fort Saint Nicholas that he would not permit any outrages likely to injure trade. In spite of this, quarrels occurred continually, and attacks and ambuscades were almost daily events. Towards the end

Helen J. Smith

merica. About
took charge of a
company had se
men thither, bu
company, not wis
grounds encroa
m to go on to C
lished a perma
t George, consis



RUSSIAN CHURCH AT SITKA, ALASKA

things pretty easily, making the natives go out hunting for them, and themselves doing little more than guard-duty. The domestic work was performed by the female hostages, helped by the children who had been sent by native chiefs to learn Russian manners and customs at the post. Now and then the men would set out on a marauding expedition, in the course of which they plundered their own countrymen and the natives with cheerful lack of discrimination. The Lebedef men at Fort Saint Nicholas soon became a nuisance and a terror to the whole country, robbing the natives of their furs without payment, pillaging the stores of their own countrymen, and carrying off their native servants and hostages.

of 1793 Baranof received reinforcements which made up the total number of his men to about one hundred and fifty. The Lebedef men were not much fewer in number, were superior to Baranof's men in dash and recklessness, and occupied an excellent position with easy access to supplies. At last Baranof's shipyard at Sunday harbor was in danger, and this roused him to vigorous action. He summoned the commander of Saint Nicholas to his presence, and put him in irons, but he failed to do much to restrain the excesses of the rival traders.

Soon, however, Baranof's hands were much strengthened by his receiving authority to form settlements anywhere in America, and to control the country for five hundred versts

Becker



A VIEW OF SITKA AND MOUNT VERSTOVIA

round them. Against such extensive powers the other trading companies could do nothing, and ere long they abandoned their posts, leaving the Shelikof company master of the field. But their crimes and outrages had seriously injured trade by arousing the animosity of the natives against the Russians. Baranof, therefore, made great efforts to reassure the natives and to maintain order among his subordinates. He patched up, to the best of his ability, the discontent existing among the company's employees, and told them that he would redress their grievances. By firmness and an autocratic demeanor he rapidly gained great ascendancy over them.

The Shelikof company, anxious to undertake fresh enterprises, requested the imperial authorities to send out to the colonies Siberian exiles skilled in ironwork, blacksmithing, and agriculture. In August, 1794, in response to this request, two of the Shelikof company's vessels arrived at Saint Paul with a cargo of stores, cattle, and provisions, and carrying 192 persons, of whom fifty-two were craftsmen and agriculturists. Baranof was instructed to use his taste and judgment in selecting a site on the mainland for a Rus-

sian settlement, which he was to make as trim and neat as possible, not permitting the Russians to live in such squalor and untidiness as did many of their countrymen in Siberia. The settlement was to have spacious squares and wide streets radiating from them. The streets were to be bordered with trees, and the houses built with spaces intervening, so that they might spread over a larger area and give a more imposing appearance to the town.

Nor was Shelikof content with all this. He was busy building ships for a company which then held the Pribylof islands, organizing the North American company, and extending traffic from Unalashka to the Arctic ocean. He established a central office at Irkutsk for the control of his many American enterprises, thus paving the way for the future consolidation of all the Russian companies in America.

Much had already been done in America: the best localities for raising cattle and for agriculture had been chosen and fortified: hunting grounds and sites for harbors and trading-posts had been selected. The colonists had been pretty successful in raising



VIEW OF SITKA, LOOKING TOWARD MOUNT EDGECOMBE

vegetables, and in some places even cereals, and plenty of excellent fish was always obtainable. By magnifying his conquests and representing that he had added fifty thousand subjects to the Russian empire, Shelikof produced so good an impression on the imperial authorities that he gained for his company the exclusive privilege of trading throughout Russian America, and on the islands between it and Asia. Shelikof's daughter had married Rezanof, a man of good family and great influence. Rezanof formed the ambitious project of procuring from the Empress a charter as wide as that of the British East India company, and of adding an empire as vast as India to the realms of the Tsar. His far-reaching schemes received a check by the death in 1795 at Irkutsk of Shelikof, who must be regarded as the founder of the Russian colonies in America; and by the death in 1796 of the Empress, before she had granted the extensive charter he hoped for.

However, Natalia, Shelikof's widow, undertook the management of the company, and

being a woman of great energy and intelligence, though of little education, with the aid of her son-in-law, she conducted its affairs with much shrewdness and discretion. In 1798 the imperial government, thinking that by giving exclusive privilege to one strong company the natives would be protected, disorder prevented, the fur-bearing animals saved from extermination, and Russian authority firmly established in America, permitted an association with three quarters of a million rubles (about \$577,000) capital, and known as the United American company, to be formed. It had been feared that the death of the Empress would be fatal to the schemes of the association, but Rezanof, by constant attendance on her successor, Paul I, obtained confirmation of the act of consolidation of the United American company, to which the name of the Russian American company was given.

The company was granted the exclusive privilege for twenty years of hunting, fishing, exploring, trading, founding, and building settlements on the northwestern main-

land of America and the islands from Kamchatka west to the coast of America, and south to the shores of Japan. No rivals, even though having posts already established within these limits, if not united with the Russian American company, were permitted to do any of these things. The civil and military authorities stationed at these places were ordered to give help and protection to the officers of the company. In return for these large and exclusive privileges the company bound itself to maintain a mission of the Græco-Catholic church, the members of which were to accompany all trading, hunting, and exploring expeditions, where an opportunity for Christianizing natives might occur. The company also undertook to encourage agriculture, cattle-breeding, ship-building, and other industries among the Russian settlers in America, and to maintain friendly relations with the natives.

The news of the organization of the Russian American company reached Baranof at a time when things were looking very black for him. He was suffering from ill health, his men were short of provisions, one of his sloops had recently been wrecked, and parties of his hunters attacked and killed by the Thlinket Indians. His drooping courage was revived, and amid many dangers and hardships, he made his way to Norfolk, or Sitka sound, and landed at a place called still Old Sitka, about three miles to the north of the present town. A Sitkan chief coming up to ask his purpose, Baranof replied that the Emperor of Russia wished to establish a settlement for trade there. The chief gave him a small piece of ground, on which Baranof erected a strong two-story building, guarded by a palisade and two block-houses, and named Fort Archangel Gabriel. In the autumn of 1800, Baranof, having fairly started the Sitka settlement, returned to Kadiak.

Matters did not long remain quiet at Sitka after Baranof's departure. The natives were supplied with guns, ammunition, and spirits, by English and American vessels trading with them, and soon became bold enough to form the plan of attacking and destroying the Russian settlement. To this end they secured allies from the Alexander archipelago and the Stikine River district. In June, 1802, the barracks and fort were attacked by large numbers of natives, while

most of the garrison were out hunting. The commander and many of his men were killed; the cattle-sheds and warehouses were taken and set on fire, and also the ships lying at anchor off the settlement. Three Russians and five Aleuts managed to escape to an English ship, whose captain made the Sitkan chiefs drunk, and recovered a large quantity of the valuable sea-otter skins which the natives had pillaged from the post. With these he sailed to Kadiak, where he received ten thousand rubles (nearly eight thousand dollars) as salvage.

In 1803 Baranof received the news of his appointment as a shareholder in the company, and of permission to wear the gold medal of the Order of Saint Vladimir. But gratified as he was at these marks of imperial approval, he was burning with anxiety to recover Sitka. With this purpose he directed his lieutenant at Yakutat (where the company had a block-house and stockade for the Siberian agriculturists in their service) to build two sailing-vessels. In 1804 he started out with an expeditionary force, consisting of eight hundred Aleuts in three hundred bidarkas, and one hundred and twenty Russians on board four small vessels under the command of a lieutenant; Baranof himself commanding the sloops Ekaterina and Alexander.

Soon after Baranof had left Kadiak, a ship named the Neva came out from Kronstadt to Kadiak. Not finding Baranof there, her commander, Lisiansky, sailed after him to Sitka, where his aid proved very welcome. The Sitka natives had taken up a strong position on a bluff, called Katlean's rock, or the Kekoor, at the mouth of Indian river. Here they occupied a fort built of logs and protected by a breastwork two logs thick.

The Russians landed and attempted to take the stockade by assault, but the natives made a brave resistance, keeping up so good a fire that they killed or wounded twenty-six Russians, among whom was Baranof himself. Next day Lisiansky assumed the command, and attacked the natives so vigorously that they offered to make peace, and promised to give hostages and to evacuate the fort. But as they showed no signs of giving up the stronghold, guns were brought up on a raft and trained upon the fort. The natives endured the strange and unwonted sounds of the

unting. The
men were
warehouses
d also the
settlement.
managed to
se captain
recovered
e sea-otter
aged from
to Kadiak,
nd rubles
s salvage.
ews of his
the com-
the gold
mir. But
of imperi-
anxiety to
se he di-
where the
stockade
their ser-

In 1804
ary force,
in three
red and
ll vessels
Baranof
Katerina

Kadiak, a
m Kron-
of there,
fter him
ery wel-
en up a
Kalean's
f Indian
built of
ork two

oted to
natives
up so
ounded
n was
sky as-
ed the
red to
stages
a they
troug-
ft and
dured
f the



RUSSIAN CHURCH AND BURIAL GROUND AT KADIAC

bombardment during the day, but at night, after killing their dogs and strangling their infant children, that no sound might show their purpose, they secretly abandoned the post, which the captors burned.

The Russians then set to work to provide permanent quarters for themselves; they constructed three substantial buildings with a stockade having block-houses at each corner; kitchen-gardens were planted and cattle introduced. The name of New Archangel was given to the settlement. Part of the stockade separating the Russian quarters from the Indian rancherie remained until a recent date. The natives entered into a treaty with the Russians and were presented with cloaks and medals. In the autumn of 1806 Baranof returned from New Archangel to Saint Paul, leaving Kuskof in command, with orders to build ships and to finish certain structures already begun.

During the year 1803 (the year after the capture of Sitka by the natives) Baranof, ever desirous to extend the operations of the company, was pushing forward in the direction of the Spanish colonies, and especially of California. Baranof lent to an American captain named O'Cain twenty bidarkas and several hunters in charge of Shutzof, an employee of the company. Shutzof was instructed to take careful observations of the inhabitants of the coast of California, and to look out for new hunting-grounds. The

American vessel left Kadiak at the end of October, 1803, sailed down to San Diego, and thence to the Bay of San Quintin in Lower California, where about a thousand skins were secured. The results of this expedition were so satisfactory that Baranof was induced in 1808 to furnish Captain Ayres, of the ship Mercury from Boston, with twenty-five bidarkas, to hunt in islands not known before. The ship was to be out ten or twelve months, and on her return the proceeds were to be equally divided. On the way south sea-otter and beaver skins were procured by barter from the natives of the Charlotte islands and at the mouth of the Columbia river. Thence the ship proceeded to San Francisco and San Diego, and came back with more than two thousand skins.

Between 1806 and 1812 Baranof entered into several similar contracts with American captains. In 1808 he sent two vessels to the coast of New Albion, a land of vague extent, the southern limit of which was somewhere between Point Reyes and San Diego. One of these was wrecked at the mouth of Quay harbor, and the other, commanded by Kuskof, returned after an absence of about a year with more than two thousand otter skins, and the information that the coast had many localities suitable for agriculture and ship-building, and that the whole country to the north of San Francisco was unoccupied by any European power.

Accordingly, Baranof gathered men suitable for an agricultural settlement, skilled in raising stock and tilling fields, and sent them in 1810 to New Albion with orders to make further explorations. On the way the crew was attacked by the Queen Charlotte islanders, and returned to New Archangel. Next year they started out again, and on this voyage Kuskof selected a spot eighteen miles north of Bodega bay, where he bought some land from the natives. In 1812 the colony was founded and named Ross. But as a place for agriculture and ship-building it was a failure, and the hunting-grounds near it were soon exhausted. The story of Fort Ross has been fully told by Mr. Charles S. Greene in the OVERLAND for July, 1893.

Quiet and dull as Sitka now looks under the government of the United States, it was in Baranof's day a very busy place. Bricks for the huge fireplaces in the Russian houses were made there: boats and sailing-vessels were built in a well-equipped shipyard: there were wood-turneries and woolen manufactories; and agricultural implements from the foundries were sold all down the Pacific Coast as far as Mexico. Axes and knives were made for bartering with the natives at the trading posts, and almost all the Mission churches from the north of Alaska to Mexico were supplied with bells from the brass-foundries of Sitka. From six hundred to eight hundred whites lived in the town in those days; and more than a dozen sailing vessels were constantly employed in trading.

In 1809 a serious plot was formed by some Siberian ex-convicts against Baranof, but it was betrayed to him and promptly crushed. Baranof had for some time been growing anxious to be relieved from his onerous labors as Chief Manager, and the discovery of this plot increased his desire. He repeatedly requested the directors of the company to appoint a successor, but twice the man selected to relieve him died before reaching his post.

In 1815 the imperial government, in conjunction with the Russian American company, sent out two vessels, the Kutuzof and the Suvarof, under command of Hagemeister, who was authorized to assume control of the affairs of the company in place of Baranof, if upon investigation he thought it necessary to do so. Hagemeister did not inform Baranof of the extent of his powers,

but quietly examined the condition of the company. Baranof was still working earnestly in its service, but the intrepid pioneer's fierce energy was beginning to flicker out. He had always been careless of religion, but now he suddenly conceived a liking for the church, and constantly kept a priest near him. Yanovsky, the first lieutenant of the Suvarof, fell in love with Baranof's daughter, and obtained her father's consent to their marriage. But Hagemeister's consent was also necessary, and was only granted on the condition that Lieutenant Yanovsky should stay for two years at New Archangel, and act as representative of the Chief Manager.

On January 11, 1818, Hagemeister told Baranof of his instructions, which so surprised and prostrated the old man that he never quite recovered from the shock. But it was the work of months to render full accounts, and to turn the affairs of the company over to the company's commissioner, Klebnikof. The commissioner estimated the value of the property at New Archangel, to say nothing of that at the many other stations of the company, at two and one half millions of rubles; and besides this, the Suvarof took furs to the value of two hundred thousand rubles to Europe, and left behind in the storehouses furs worth nine hundred thousand rubles more. The buildings and vessels of the company were in excellent condition, and the accounts in perfect order. In September, 1818, the work was done and the complete statement handed over to Yanovsky. It was now nearly thirty years since Baranof had landed on Kadiak island; he was already seventy-two years old, and had spent himself in the service of the company. Thrown unceremoniously aside in his old age by the company whose leading spirit he had been, and whose interests he had enormously extended and firmly consolidated, he could not tear himself away at once from the scenes of his labors, dangers, privations, and achievements. He resolved to pay farewell visits to Kadiak and the various settlements he had founded, and then go to live with a brother in Kamchatka. But he was urged to return to Russia, where his advice would be of the highest value to the directors of the company. He decided to do this, and late in November set sail in the Kutusof, which, on her way home, stopped for more

than a month at the unhealthy port of Batavia. Here Baranof insisted upon going ashore. He was seized with sickness, and died soon after the vessel had set sail again.

Like Napoleon, Baranof was a little great man; insignificant in appearance, thin, short of stature, with reddish hair, and a face covered by hardship and exposure with wrinkles. He was an early riser, and ate but one meal a day, and that at no fixed time. He was fond of gayety, and kept round him a little court of reckless spirits, whom he feasted and filled with strong liquors. Ship-captains who did not drink stood but small chance of doing business with him. Washington Irving, in his "Astoria," describes, with a few touches of exaggeration, but on the whole faithfully, how the ship-masters who visited New Archangel sang and reveled with the Chief Manager. He was fitful and violent in temper, but always showed such sincere regret and desire to make amends for outbursts of passion that the women and servants of his house came to look upon them as the precursors of a feast. He was fond of music, and his daughter, to whom he was much attached, could always put him into a good humor by playing on the piano. He treated his daughter with much respect, and used to send her away from the room when he began to feel drunk. One day, finding her German governess drinking a glass of spirits, he struck her; next day he expressed regret for his act, but said that she must never let his daughter see her drinking strong liquor.

Yet rough as Baranof was, he was kind to people in distress, and generous to his employees. Though he had boundless chances of self-enrichment, he did not avail himself of them. He spent liberally but did not exceed his means. He maintained his wife well at his native place, Kargapol, and made many remittances to Russia to help the families of men who had died in the company's service; he also gave part of his shares in the company to supplement the scanty incomes of his lieutenants, Banner and Kuskof. The company's commissioner, Klebnikof, who was thoroughly familiar with the details of Baranof's management, entertained the liveliest admiration for him. He wrote a biography of Baranof, which is really, as it could not well help being, a history of the Russian colonies in America.

It may be well to say a few words about the finances of the company of which Baranof, if not the founder, was at least the controlling spirit. The original capital of the company was about \$542,000, afterwards increased to about \$925,000. The net earnings between 1797 and 1820 were about \$5,764,000, of which rather more than half was paid out in dividends, the remainder being added to the capital. Furs to the value of twelve millions of dollars were sold or exchanged for commodities at Kiakhta, and for more than \$2,600,000 at Canton. Yet the yield of furs was by no means so great during the later as in the earlier years of Baranof's administration, the sea-otters falling off very much in numbers, and the competition of American traders, who had no scruples about giving guns and ammunition in barter to the natives, doing the company much harm. The Chief Manager received \$5,800 per annum, the chief clerk from \$2,250 to \$3,000, a priest \$450, and a hunter from \$45 to \$112. Provisions had to be purchased at the company's stores, and were often scarce and dear, owing to the failure of ships to arrive. The company's employees frequently had to put up with serious hardships, and had but little chance of laying up anything for their old age.

Many traces of Baranof and his successors are still visible at Sitka. Near the water's edge, and overlooking the lovely bay, is Katlean's rock. On this eminence of about eighty feet Baranof built a block-house, which was burned. A later Chief Manager, Kupreanof, crowned the rock with a spacious residence, which was destroyed by earthquake in 1847. The next structure, generally called the Castle, measured eighty-six by fifty-one feet, and was built of squared cedar logs, riveted by copper bolts to their rocky foundation. It had three stories and was surmounted by a light-house. It was handsomely furnished, and there the naval officers who succeeded Baranof lived luxuriously, entertaining visitors of all ranks with a lavish and impartial hospitality. When the "Castle" was turned over to the United States by Prince Demitrius Maksontoff, the only military governor, it was in thorough order, but the American soldiers stripped it of all its furniture and decorations, and it rapidly became ruinous and forlorn. On the arrival of a man-of-war or a revenue cutter some of the large rooms would be furnished

up for a dance, after which desolation again reigned. A year or two ago it perished by fire.

The Custom House, the barracks occupied by the United States marines, and some stout log-built warehouses near the wharf also owe their origin to the Russians. If we cross the grassy parade-ground, where once was the Russian ship-yard, and walk towards the Greek church, we pass on the right a sturdy log structure which was the main office of the Russian American company. Behind the church is a building formerly used as a clubhouse by the Russian officers. Not far from the club were tea-gardens and a race-

course, both now entirely hidden under the mantle of dense vegetation that rapidly covers every deserted spot in the moist climate of southeastern Alaska. The saw-mill with the flume that supplied it with water is still visible, though rapidly falling into decay. Another legacy of the Muscovite to the American is the walk leading round the curving beach to the woods bordering the banks of Indian river. This charming promenade furnishes the residents of Sitka with the chance of obtaining a little pedestrian exercise, a great boon in a country where there are practically no roads.

BARCAROLA

A FLOAT on ocean's heaving breast,
 Rocked by the swelling tide,
 Or poised upon the breaker's crest,
 My boat shall gayly ride.

The salt spray dashes in my face, —
 Hark, how the sea birds cry, —
 Up with the sail, ho for a race
 With the white clouds sailing by.

The mighty surges madly leap
 With angry, sullen roar,
 Then die away and softly sweep
 Like lace upon the shore.

Oh how I love thee, restless sea,
 Thy presence stirs my soul, —
 Blow, blow, ye wild winds, blow for me,
 And roll, ye billows, roll.

Elliott Reed.

ely hidden under the
etation that rapidly
spot in the moist
n Alaska. The saw-
at supplied it with
ough rapidly falling
egacy of the Musco-
s the walk leading
h to the woods bor-
Indian river. This
furnishes the resi-
chance of obtaining
rcise, a great boon
e are practically no

Elliott Reed.